

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 52/ 92) 1. A method comprising:
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-
3 list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list
4 message from a vendor.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:
5 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said informing a
2 manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:
3 informing the manufacturer of at least one payment due or
4 owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least
6 one recorded rebate transaction.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said informing a
2 manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:
3 informing the manufacturer of at least one payment due or
4 owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least
6 one recorded rebate transaction and a specified
7 period of time.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:
5 informing a retailer of specific rebate data.

1 12) 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said informing a
2 retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

3 informing the retailer of at least one payment due or
4 owed to the retailer, where such payment is based,
5 at least in part, on a record having at least one
6 recorded rebate transaction.

1 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein said informing a
2 retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

3 informing the retailer of at least one payment due or
4 owed to the retailer, where such payment is based,
5 at least in part, on a record having at least one
6 recorded rebate transaction and a specified period
7 of time.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:

5 recording a rebate transaction.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said recording a
2 rebate transaction further includes:

3 adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in
4 response to a message from at least one rebate-
5 related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been
6 scanned.

1 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the rebate vehicle
2 comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

1 11) 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response

3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:

5 sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage
6 counter has been adjusted in response to a message
7 from at least one rebate-related vendor that a
8 rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:

5 sending a message -- containing at least one part
6 selected from the group comprising the value of a
7 rebate, and at least one limit on the quantity of
8 the rebate -- in response to a message from at least
9 one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has
10 been scanned.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:

5 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one
6 rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a
2 message from a vendor that at least one rebate vehicle has
3 been scanned further includes:

4 checking the message for an indicia of origination.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a
2 message from a vendor that at least one rebate vehicle has
3 been scanned further includes:

4 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner
5 of the vendor.

1 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a
2 message originating from at least one scanner of the vendor
3 further includes:
4 receiving the message via at least one central computer.

1 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a
2 message originating from at least one scanner of the vendor
3 further includes:
4 receiving the message via at least one computer local to
5 a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 18. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 comprises:
5 receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

1 19. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 comprising:
5 receiving a message from a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 20. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing
2 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response
3 to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a vendor further
4 includes:
5 informing a vendor as to monies owed for said dispensing
6 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 billing at least one vendor for said dispensing
3 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said billing at
2 least one vendor for said dispensing information related to a
3 multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

4 billing the at least one vendor a fee selected from a
5 group comprising a fee based upon answering an
6 inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on the value
7 of rebate transactions, and a fee based on the
8 number of rebate transactions.

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1 23. A system comprising:

2 means for dispensing information related to a multi-
3 vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-
4 rebate-list message from a vendor.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a manufacturer of specific rebate
6 data.

1 25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for
2 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data further
3 includes:

4 means for informing the manufacturer of at least one
5 payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where
6 such payment is based, at least in part, on a record
7 having at least one recorded rebate transaction.

1 26. The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for
2 informing a manufacturer of specific rebate data further
3 includes:

4 means for informing the manufacturer of at least one
5 payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where
6 such payment is based, at least in part, on a record
7 having at least one recorded rebate transaction and
8 a specified period of time.

1 27. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a retailer of specific rebate data.

1 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for
2 informing a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:
3 means for informing the retailer of at least one payment
4 due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least
6 one recorded rebate transaction.

1 29. The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for
2 informing a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:
3 means for informing the retailer of at least one payment
4 due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is
5 based, at least in part, on a record having at least
6 one recorded rebate transaction and a specified
7 period of time.

1 30. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:
5 means for recording a rebate transaction.

1 31. The system of Claim 30, wherein said means for
2 recording a rebate transaction further includes:
3 means for adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage
4 counter in response to a message from at least one
5 rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been
6 scanned.

1 32. The system of Claim 31, wherein the rebate vehicle
2 comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

1 33. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,

3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-
6 of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a
7 message from at least one rebate-related vendor that
8 a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 34. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for sending a message -- containing at least one
6 part selected from the group comprising the value of
7 a rebate, and at least one limit on the quantity of
8 the rebate -- in response to a message from at least
9 one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has
10 been scanned.

1 35. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for receiving a message from a vendor that at least
6 one rebate vehicle has been scanned.

1 36. The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for
2 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one rebate
3 vehicle has been scanned further includes:

4 means for checking the message for an indicia of
5 origination.

1 37. The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for
2 receiving a message from a vendor that at least one rebate
3 vehicle has been scanned further includes:

4 means for receiving a message originating from at least
5 one scanner of the vendor.

1 38. The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for
2 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner of
3 the vendor further includes:

4 means for receiving the message via at least one central
5 computer.

1 39. The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for
2 receiving a message originating from at least one scanner of
3 the vendor further includes:

4 means for receiving the message via at least one computer
5 local to a retailer or a manufacturer.

1 40. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further comprises:

5 means for receiving a message inquiring as to monies
6 owed.

1 41. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,
3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further comprising:

5 means for receiving a message from a retailer or a
6 manufacturer.

1 42. The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for
2 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list,

3 in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message from a
4 vendor further includes:

5 means for informing a vendor as to monies owed for said
6 dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-
7 rebate-list.

1 43. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:
2 means for billing at least one vendor for said dispensing
3 information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

1 44. The system of Claim 43, wherein said means for
2 billing at least one vendor for said dispensing information
3 related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:
4 means for billing the at least one vendor a fee selected
5 from a group comprising a fee based upon answering
6 an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on the
7 value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on the
8 number of rebate transactions.

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